The California Rangeland Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly that significant portion that encircles the Central Valley and includes the adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands, including the Sierra foothills and the interior coast ranges. These lands support important ecosystems and are the foundation for the ranching industry that owns them.

WHEREAS, these rangelands include a rich and varied landscape of grasslands, oak woodlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, which support numerous imperiled species, many native plants once common in the Central Valley, and are home to the highest diversity and density of wintering raptors anywhere in North America;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are often located in California's fastest-growing counties and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses;

WHEREAS, these rangelands, and the species that rely on these habitats, largely persist today due to the positive and experienced grazing and other land stewardship practices of the ranchers that have owned and managed these lands and are committed to a healthy future for their working landscapes;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide this important working landscape for California's plants, fish and wildlife if private rangelands remain in ranching;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively work together to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley and includes adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands by:

- Keeping common species common on private working landscapes;

- Working to recover imperiled species and enhancing habitat on rangelands while seeking to minimize regulations on private lands and streamline processes;

- Supporting the long-term viability of the ranching industry and its culture by providing economic, social and other incentives and by reducing burdens to proactive stewardship on private ranchlands;

- Increasing private, state and federal funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and expand the ranching community's beneficial land stewardship practices that benefit sensitive species and are fully compatible with normal ranching practices;

- Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be very effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes;

- Educating the public about the benefits of grazing and ranching in these rangelands.

SIGNED BY:

Alameda County Board of Supervisors	California Department of Conservation	Central Valley Farmland Trust Council	The Nature Conservancy
Alameda Co. Resource Conservation District	California Dept of Fish and Game	Defenders of Wildlife	Trust for Public Land
American Land Conservancy	California Dept of Food and Agriculture	Ducks Unlimited	University of California
Audubon California	California Farm Bureau Federation	Environmental Defense	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management	California Grazing Lands Coalition	Institute for Ecological Health	US Forest Service
Butte Environmental Council	California Native Grasslands Association	Jumping Frog Research Institute	VernalPools.org
Butte County Resource Conservation District	California Native Plant Society	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Western Shasta Resource
California Association of Resource Conservation	California Oak Foundation	Sacramento River Watershed Program	Conservation District
Districts	California Rangeland Trust	San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center	Wildlife Conservation Board
California Cattlemen's Association	California Resources Agency	San Joaquin Valley Conservancy	WildPlaces
California Chapter of the International Soil and	California Wildlife Foundation	Sierra Foothills Audubon Society	
Water Conservation Society	Cal-Pac Section Society of Range Management	Sustainable Conservation	June 23, 2006